
U.S. Department of the Interior • U.S. Geological Survey

MINERAL INDUSTRY SURVEYS

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ALUMINUM IN FEBRUARY 1997

Domestic primary aluminum production in February was 277,229 metric tons. The average daily production rate was 9,901 tons, slightly higher than that of the previous month and 1% above the rate for February 1996.

The monthly average U.S. spot or market price of primary aluminum ingot increased slightly from 76.06 cents per pound in January to 76.42 cents per pound in February, according to *Platt's Metals Week*. According to *American Metal Market*, the published buying price range for processed aluminum used beverage can (UBC) scrap held steady at 58 to 60 cents per

pound during February. According to *Resource Recycling's Container Recycling Report*, the monthly average transaction price for aluminum UBC's was 60 cents per pound.

Update

The monthly average spot or market price of primary aluminum ingot increased to 79.64 cents per pound in March. The buying price range for aluminum UBC scrap held steady at 58 to 60 cents per pound through March 25.

TABLE 1
COMPONENTS OF ALUMINUM SUPPLY 1/

(Thousand metric tons)

Period	Primary production	Secondary recovery 2/			Imports for consumption			Total new supply 3/	Total stocks end of period 4/
		New	Old	Total	Metals and alloys, crude	Plates, sheets, bars, etc.	Total		
1996: p/	3,577	1,770	1,550	3,320	1,910	498	2,410	9,300	1,830
1996:									
February	283	148	117	265	150	37	187	735	2,030
March	303	151	125	276	148	43	191	769	2,010
April	293	151	134	285	188	41	229	807	2,020
May	303	152	136	287	176	42	217	808	1,960
June	293	145	122	267	169	40	210	769	1,980
July	301	145	130	274	139	45	184	760	1,960
August	302	143	138	281	149	45	194	777	1,910
September	292	144	130	275	136	43	179	746	1,890
October	304	156	137	293	170	45	215	812	1,840
November	295	143	130	273	147	41	188	756	1,830
December	305	147 r/	128 r/	276 r/	180	39	219	801	1,830
Jan.-Feb.	584	291	240	531	308	73	381	1,500	2,030
1997:									
January	305	158 r/	130	288 r/	145	42	188	781	NA
February	277	152	124	276	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Jan.-Feb.	583	310	254	564	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA

p/ Preliminary. r/ Revised. NA Not available.

1/ Data are rounded to three significant digits, except "Primary production"; may not add to totals shown.

2/ Metallic recovery from purchased, tolled, or imported scrap, expanded for full coverage of industry.

3/ Primary production, secondary recovery, and imports for consumption.

4/ Includes scrap; data from Current Industrial Reports, Series M33D, U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census.

TABLE 2
ESTIMATED FULL COVERAGE CONSUMPTION OF AND METALLIC RECOVERY FROM PURCHASED
NEW AND OLD ALUMINUM SCRAP 1/

(Thousand metric tons)

Period	Secondary smelters		Integrated aluminum companies		Independent mill fabricators		Foundries		Other consumers		Total	
	Con-sump-tion	Metal recovery	Con-sump-tion	Metal recovery	Con-sump-tion	Metal recovery	Con-sump-tion	Metal recovery	Con-sump-tion	Metal recovery	Con-sump-tion	Metal recovery
1996: p/	1,490	1,210	1,410	1,250	815 r/	752	107	98	7	7	3,830	3,320
1996:												
February	123	100	111	99	62	57	9	8	1	1	305	265
March	123	100	120	107	67	62	8	7	(2/)	(2/)	318	276
April	124	101	132	117	63	58	9	9	1	1	329	285
May	124	101	129	114	69	63	9	8	(2/)	(2/)	331	287
June	124	101	108	96	66	61	9	8	1	1	308	267
July	124	101	110	97	73	67	9	8	1	1	317	274
August	125	102	123	109	66	61	9	8	1	1	324	281
September	125	101	110	98	73	67	9	8	1	1	317	275
October	125	102	125	111	77	71	9	9	1	1	337	293
November	125	101	113	101	68	63	9	8	(2/)	(2/)	315	273
December	124	101	113	100	72 r/	67	9	8	1	1	318 r/	276 r/
Jan.-Feb.	247	201	225	201	121	112	18	17	1	1	613	531
1997:												
January	122	99	126	112	75	69	7 r/	6 r/	1	1	331 r/	288 r/
February	121	98	116	103	74	68	7	6	(2/)	(2/)	318	276
Jan.-Feb.	244	197	242	216	149	138	14	12	1	1	649	564

p/ Preliminary. r/ Revised.

1/ Data are rounded to three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

2/ Less than 1/2 unit.

TABLE 3
CONSUMPTION OF AND RECOVERY FROM PURCHASED
NEW AND OLD ALUMINUM SCRAP IN FEBUARY 1997 1/

(Metric tons)

	Consumption		Calculated metallic recovery	
	Tabulated reports	Estimated full coverage	Tabulated reports	Estimated full coverage
Secondary smelters	101,000	121,000	81,600	97,900
Integrated aluminum companies	116,000	116,000	103,000	103,000
Independent mill fabricators	61,500	73,800	56,700	68,000
Foundries	5,790	6,940	5,270	6,320
Other consumers	385	462	385	462
Total	284,000	318,000	247,000	276,000

1/ Data are rounded to three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

TABLE 4
PURCHASED AND TOLL-TREATED ALUMINUM-BASE SCRAP AND SWEATED PIG IN
FEBUARY 1997 1/

(Metric tons)

	Stocks, opening	Net receipts 2/	Melted or consumed	Stocks, closing
New scrap:				
Solids	32,200 r/	77,900	81,300	28,800
Can stock clippings	8,840	19,500	20,200	8,090
Other clippings	6,650 r/	17,700	17,700	6,580
Borings and turnings	4,610 r/	17,700	17,700	4,580
Dross and skimmings	3,220 r/	17,200	17,200	3,200
Total new scrap	55,500 r/	150,000	154,000	51,300
Old scrap:				
Used casting, sheet, and clippings	21,300 r/	53,300	53,100	21,500
Aluminum-copper radiators	1,070 r/	1,060	1,060	1,080
Used cans (shredded, loose, baled)	28,800	75,500	70,100	34,200
Fragmentized shredder (auto shredder)	W	W	W	W
Other	966 r/	4,830	4,810	984
Total old scrap	52,100 r/	135,000	129,000	57,700
Sweated pig	2,500 r/	1,080	1,080	2,500
Total all classes	110,000 r/	286,000	284,000	111,000

r/ Revised. W Withheld to avoid disclosing company proprietary data; included with "Other."

1/ Data are rounded to three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

2/ Includes data on imported aluminum-base scrap.

TABLE 5
ALUMINUM ALLOYS PRODUCED AT SECONDARY SMELTERS
IN THE UNITED STATES IN FEBRUARY 1997 1/ 2/

(Metric tons)

	Stocks, opening	Production	Net shipments	Stocks, closing
Die cast alloys:				
13% Si, 360, etc. (0.6% Cu, max.)	3,530 r/	4,060	3,930	3,650
380 and variations	13,300 r/	39,400	39,500	13,100
Sand and permanent mold:				
95/5 Al-Si, 356, etc. (0.6% Cu, max.)	13,000	966	966	13,000
No. 319 and variations	3,700 r/	5,990	6,060	3,630
F-132 alloy and variations	1,840	2,970	2,970	1,840
Al-Zn alloys	453	118	118	453
Al-Si alloys (0.6% to 2.0% Cu)	96	168	168	96
Al-Cu alloys (1.5% Si, max.)	60	77	77	60
Other 3/	2,830	3,270	3,430	2,680
Wrought alloys:				
Extrusion billets	5,030 r/	14,000	14,300	4,690
Total all alloys	43,800 r/	71,000	71,600	43,200
Less:				
Primary aluminum consumed	XX	3,240	XX	XX
Primary silicon consumed	XX	5,710	XX	XX
Other alloying ingredients consumed	XX	365	XX	XX
Net metallic recovery from aluminum scrap and sweated pig consumed in production of secondary aluminum ingot 4/	XX	61,600	XX	XX

r/ Revised. XX Not applicable.

1/ Excludes integrated aluminum companies.

2/ Data are rounded to three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

3/ Includes alloys No. 12, Al-Mg, Al-Si-Cu-Ni, aluminum-base hardeners, variations of these alloys, plus other aluminum alloys.

4/ No allowance made for melt-loss of primary aluminum and alloying ingredients.

TABLE 6
U.S. IMPORTS FOR CONSUMPTION OF ALUMINUM IN JANUARY 1997 1/

(Metric tons)

Country	Metals and alloys, crude	Plates, sheets, bars, etc.	Scrap	Total
Argentina	797	--	60	857
Australia	300	25	123	447
Bahrain	--	77	--	77
Belgium	--	485	--	485
Brazil	--	4	--	4
Canada	116,000	25,500	19,300	161,000
Croatia	--	16	--	16
Czech Republic	--	9	--	9
France	40	652	422	1,110
Germany	31	1,800	633	2,470
Italy	--	359	--	359
Japan	37	1,310	99	1,450
Korea, Republic of	16	12	155	182
Mexico	174	982	6,230	7,380
Netherlands	1	279	96	376
Norway	38	200	--	238
Russia	12,400	2,790	473	15,700
Slovakia	38	--	--	38
Slovenia	--	311	--	311
South Africa	2,600	419	15	3,030
Spain	--	1,080	--	1,080
Sweden	--	254	22	276
Switzerland	--	295	--	295
Ukraine	395	--	--	395
United Arab Emirates	--	--	121	121
United Kingdom	1	966	597	1,570
Venezuela	12,600	2,560	1,510	16,600
Other	(2/)	1,810	4,260	6,070
Total	145,000	42,200	34,100	222,000

1/ Data are rounded to three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

2/ Less than 1/2 unit.

Source: Bureau of the Census.

TABLE 7
U.S. EXPORTS OF ALUMINUM IN JANUARY 1997 1/

(Metric tons)

Country or territory	Metals and alloys, crude	Plates, sheets, bars, etc.	Scrap	Total
Australia	2	279	--	281
Belgium	--	566	42	608
Brazil	2	6,860	--	6,860
Canada	13,300	33,800	6,560	53,600
China	388	2,180	2,570	5,140
Czech Republic	--	2	--	2
Dominican Republic	--	4	--	4
France	15	308	--	323
Estonia	3	--	--	3
Germany	68	545	3	615
Hong Kong	96	1,130	1,830	3,050
India	--	10	11	22
Israel	--	26	--	26
Italy	--	18	--	18
Japan	11,600	2,370	3,630	17,600
Korea, Republic of	1,430	2,570	3,550	7,550
Malaysia	(2/)	303	20	323
Mexico	2,870	8,490	1,790	13,200
Netherlands	18	69	--	88
Russia	--	(2/)	--	(2/)
Saudi Arabia	--	1,080	--	1,080
Singapore	19	145	--	164
Spain	1	181	18	199
Sweden	--	6	--	6
Taiwan	563	814	4,320	5,690
Thailand	200	638	144	982
United Kingdom	69	1,470	12	1,550
Venezuela	48	717	18	783
Other	363	6,470	219	7,050
Total	31,000	71,000	24,700	127,000

1/ Data are rounded to three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

2/ Less than 1/2 unit.

Source: Bureau of the Census.